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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/696,959	10/30/2003	Craig C. Hodges	00020.08CON	8482

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EXAMINER

HAGHIGHATIAN, MINA

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

1616

DATE MAILED: 10/20/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

# Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/696,959

Applicant(s)

HODGES ET AL.

Examiner

Mina Haghighatian

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

## Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

## Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 01 August 2005.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

## Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-17 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-17 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

## Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

## Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
  - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

## Attachment(s)

- 1) ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 08/01/05.

- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. \_\_\_\_\_.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_.

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### **DETAILED ACTION**

Receipt is acknowledged of the Amendments, Remarks and IDS filed 08/01/05.  
No claims are cancelled and no new claims added. Accordingly claims 1-17 remain pending.

#### ***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112***

The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The rejection of claims 1-17 under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention, is withdrawn.

#### ***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103***

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 1-11 and 13 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Howell et al (5,743,251).

Howell et al teaches aerosols formed by supplying a material in liquid form to a tube and heating the tube such that the material volatilizes and expands out of an open end of the tube. The volatilized material combines with ambient air such that volatilized material condenses to form the aerosol (see abstract). The aerosols have an average mass median particle diameter of less than 2

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microns to facilitate deep lung penetration. The drug is delivered at a rate of above 1 mg/sec (see col. 2, lines 1-9). The device contains a thin platinum layer and an aluminum tube (see col. 3, lines 60-66). The thin film heater layer is deposited on the ceramic tube. The heater layer is preferably a thin platinum film having a thickness of less than 2 microns (col. 4, lines 12-20). The fluid is said to be fed at a rate of 1.5 mg/sec (col. 12, lines 33-36).

Although Howell et al does not state the method steps for the preparation of a condensation aerosol as recited in the instant claims, the modifications would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art. Howell provides sufficient disclosure for one of ordinary skill in the art to make and use the invention as claimed. The formation of particles with a mass median diameter of less than 2 micron reads on the limitation of 0.1 micron.

### ***Double Patenting***

The nonstatutory double patenting rejection is based on a judicially created doctrine grounded in public policy (a policy reflected in the statute) so as to prevent the unjustified or improper timewise extension of the "right to exclude" granted by a patent and to prevent possible harassment by multiple assignees. See *In re Goodman*, 11 F.3d 1046, 29 USPQ2d 2010 (Fed. Cir. 1993); *In re Longi*, 759 F.2d 887, 225 USPQ 645 (Fed. Cir. 1985); *In re Van Ornum*, 686 F.2d 937, 214 USPQ 761 (CCPA 1982); *In re Vogel*, 422 F.2d 438, 164 USPQ 619 (CCPA 1970); and, *In re Thorington*, 418 F.2d 528, 163 USPQ 644 (CCPA 1969).

A timely filed terminal disclaimer in compliance with 37 CFR 1.321(c) may be used to overcome an actual or provisional rejection based on a nonstatutory double patenting ground provided the conflicting application or patent is shown to be commonly owned with this application. See 37 CFR 1.130(b).

Effective January 1, 1994, a registered attorney or agent of record may sign a terminal disclaimer. A terminal disclaimer signed by the assignee must fully comply with 37 CFR 3.73(b).

Claims 1-17 are rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims of U.S. Patent Nos. 6776978, 6716417, 6797259, 6740309, 6743415, 6737042, 6814955, 6805584, 6716415, 6803031, 6759029, 6737043, 6740308, 6740307, 6716416, 6783753, 6780400, 6780399, 6805853 and 6814954. Although the conflicting claims are not identical, they are not patentably distinct from each other because the examined claims are anticipated by the reference claims. Claims of the instant application are generic to all that is recited in claims of the said U.S. Patents. That is, claims of the said U.S. Patents fall entirely within the scope of the instant claims. Specifically the methods of preparing a condensation aerosol of particles of the said U.S. Patents have specific drugs, which meet the requirement of the generic DRUG of the instant claims and the generic MMAD of the said U.S. Patents meets the limitation of the instant claims. In other words "drug" is generic to all drugs and "MMAD of less than 3 microns encompasses MMAD of less than 0.1 micron. The remaining limitations are either anticipated or obvious over the reference claims.

Due to the large number of co-pending patents, it would be a burden to the Office to have the rejections addressed individually. Thus they are grouped together.

Claim 1-17 are provisionally rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims of copending Application Nos. 10/815527, 10/816492, 10/768220, 10/766574, 10/813721, 10/767115, 10/816567, 10/766279, 10/766641, 10/814998, 10/718982, 10/769157, 10/769197,

10/769051, 10/768205, 10/766647, 10/792013, 10/792012, 10/766634, 10/766566, 10/768293, 10/791915 and 10/775586. Although the conflicting claims are not identical, they are not patentably distinct from each other because the examined claims are anticipated by the reference claims. Claims of the instant application are generic to all that is recited in claims of the said copending Applications. That is, claims of the said copending Applications fall entirely within the scope of the instant claims. Specifically the methods of preparing a condensation aerosol of particles of the said copending Applications have specific drugs, which meet the requirement of the generic DRUG of the instant claims and the MMAD of the said copending Applications meets the particle diameter limitation of the instant claims. In other words "drug" is generic to all drugs and "MMAD of less than 3 microns" encompasses MMAD of less than 0.1 micron. The remaining limitations are either anticipated or obvious over the reference claims.

Due to the large number of co-pending applications, it would be a burden to the Office to have the rejections addressed individually. Thus they are grouped together.

This is a provisional obviousness-type double patenting rejection because the conflicting claims have not in fact been patented.

### ***Response to Arguments***

Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1-17 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

Applicant argues that Howell et al do not “disclose or suggest depositing a drug on a substrate, as required by Claim 1 of the present application”. This is not persuasive because Howell et al teaches placing the drug in a tube, and it is considered that a “tube” reads on “a substrate”. Instant claims do not specify any form for the drug, thus Howell’s “liquid” also reads on the instant “drug”.

Applicant argues that Howell et al disclose particles of less than 2 micron and do not “teach one of ordinary skill in the art how to prepare an aerosol with a mass median aerodynamic diameter of less than 0.1 micron”. This is not persuasive because a disclosure of “less than 2 microns” encompasses “less than 0.1 micron”. It is also noted that optimization of ranges is a) obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art and b) NOT a support for patentability. Absent a showing of the criticality of a smaller particle size, it is considered that the prior art renders it obvious.

**THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL.** Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire **THREE MONTHS** from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within **TWO MONTHS** of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the **THREE-MONTH** shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of

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the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Mina Haghighatian whose telephone number is 571-272-0615. The examiner can normally be reached on core office hours.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Gary L. Kunz can be reached on 571-272-0887. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



Mina Haghighatian  
October 14, 2005



SREENI PADMANABHAN  
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER